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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1992
Agenda item 13
PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER
NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND
OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES

Economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The question of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 and their social and economic consequences has been dealt with in many reports. In 1979, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 446 (1979) in which it determined that the Israeli policy and practices of establishing settlements in these territories had no legal validity and constituted a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This position was reaffirmed unanimously in resolution 465 (1980), the preamble of which emphasizes the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of public and private land, property, and the area's water resources. In 1980, the International Labour Conference also expressed its concern regarding the establishment of settlements, and called for an end to this policy and for existing settlements to be dismantled.

2. In 1991, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) submitted a report on the subject of the Israeli settlements to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (A/46/263-E/1991/88). In 1992,

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* A/47/50.

the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories prepared a report on the same issue which was transmitted to the General Assembly in document A/47/76. Recently, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) issued a report on the situation of workers of the occupied territories and submitted it to the International Labour Conference at its seventy-ninth session (1992). 1/

3. The term "settlement" in this paper is meant to apply to any Israeli civil or military installation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. Israel has extended its jurisdiction, legislation and administration to East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan. It should be noted that Israeli legislation applies to the settlers, regardless of the fact that they reside outside the territory of the State of Israel.

4. The building of settlements began immediately after the Six-Day War in 1967, with the first being established in the Golan Heights; settlements are planned and controlled by the Government. This policy has been developed more or less intensively since that time, and at an even more accelerated pace since the beginning of 1991. Massive Jewish immigration to Israel from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the countries of Eastern Europe, and Ethiopia (approximately 200,000 in 1990 and 200,000 in 1991) has led the Government to intensify the building of housing in the territories of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan. 1/ The increase in prices and demand for housing in Israel has led many Israelis to move to the settlements in the occupied territories. They are encouraged to do so - mainly through financial and tax incentives offered by the Government. Loans are more concessionary, infrastructure is provided free of charge, and there are substantial tax discounts. During the 1990 fiscal year, the Government of Israel spent (on the settlements) a total of 1,500 million shekels in the occupied territories, which is equal to three times the amount spent during any other year in the territories since 1967. 2/

5. According to a report by the Central Bureau of Statistics (Jerusalem Post, 6 April 1992), "the number of building starts in the territories quadrupled during 1991, while building starts country-wide doubled", making it extremely difficult for the Arab population to obtain building permits. In addition, 5,565 mobile and prefabricated homes were installed in 1991, according to information obtained from the Ministry of Finance. 3/ The increased investment by the authorities is the result of a political determination expressed from the beginning of the occupation of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Golan and the Gaza Strip. It has been reiterated on several occasions by the Minister of Housing that "Israel will continue its 'unprecedented' settlement activity" in the territories and "there has been no change in the Government's decision to build" on land throughout this region (Jerusalem Post, 31 January 1992).

6. On 8 April 1992, the Council of Jewish Communities launched a major campaign to encourage tens of thousands of Jews to move to houses currently under construction in the territories; the aim was to settle 70,000 persons within a year in the occupied territories.

7. On 26 August 1991, the Housing Minister outlined at a Knesset debate his plan for the long-term construction of settlements in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. The plan included a ring of new housing units around Jerusalem and Jericho, and the expansion and/or construction of others near Nablus and Tulkarim and in the Gaza Strip. In total, there were about 19,000 units at various stages of construction in the occupied territories as of 12 September 1991 (Ha'aretz, 12 September 1991). In addition, a new neighbourhood of 300 housing units is to be set up in north-east Jerusalem so as to establish a succession of Jewish settlements around the city. The Arabs represent 55 per cent of the residents of East Jerusalem, while the Jews represent 45 per cent (or 140,000 Arabs and 120,000 Jews). The Government wants to establish a Jewish majority in East Jerusalem by directing 60,000 emigrants to Jerusalem in the next three years (Ha'aretz, 20 September 1991).

8. On 11 October 1991, it was reported that some 4,300 new emigrants had settled in the territories since January 1990, as indicated by the Finance Ministry's latest information (Jerusalem Post, 11 October 1991).

9. On 4 November 1991, a new settlement (Bruchim) was inaugurated in the Golan Heights by the Ministers of Housing, Energy and Agriculture. The settlement should be established within the next three years and will house over 40,000 people (Ha'aretz, 6 October 1991 and Jerusalem Post, 5 November 1991).

10. In the occupied territories, the indigenous Arab community - governed by a civil administration under the authority of the Israeli Ministry of Defence and subject to specific legislation - develops separately from the newly established Jewish Israeli community. This dual legal and administrative system applicable to the two peoples was highlighted in the country report on human rights practices for 1990 of the United States Department of State. The report emphasizes that "Palestinians - both Muslim and Christian - are treated less favourably than Israeli settlers on a broad range of issues, including equality before the law, the right to residence, freedom of movement, sale of crops and goods, land and water use, and access to health and social services". The Palestinian human rights organization Al-Haq (affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists) adds in this respect that "In fact, Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem governed by Israeli law, are designed to benefit the Israeli population of the settlers to the detriment of the autochthonous Palestinian population." Al-Haq and other Palestinian sources pointed out that the benefits and subsidies granted to settlers by the Government are components of a situation in which 65 per cent of the Arab lands of the West Bank were confiscated illegally by the authorities and where Palestinian towns and villages are encircled and isolated by the plans for the development of the settlements. Furthermore, there are no projects for the urban or rural development of the Palestinian agglomerations or for their improvement or expansion. 4/

11. Over the course of time, the Israeli Government has expropriated - and continues to expropriate - the Arab land of the occupied territories, whether cultivated, non-cultivated, pasture or inhabited, under four separate categories:

(a) The land "abandoned" by the populations displaced since 1948;

(b) The land formerly registered in the name of the Government of Jordan, and the land of Arab owners who have never been able to prove ownership;

(c) Land confiscated for military purposes;

(d) Land which is deemed to serve Israeli public interest.

12. In addition, Arab land is also subject to restrictions concerning its use under Military Order No. 393 of 1970 - applied in cases where land surrounds settlements, camps, military installations or access routes to the settlements. In some regions, fertile Palestinian land has been sacrificed to secure access routes; many vineyards have been destroyed between Bethlehem and Hebron for this purpose.

13. On the basis of the applied Israeli laws and regulations, the following land areas were confiscated between June 1967 and the end of 1990: 5/

(a) A total of 2,895,642 dunums in the occupied West Bank, representing 52.6 per cent of the total land area of the West Bank;

(b) A total of 153,475 dunums in the Gaza Strip, representing 42.3 per cent of the total land area of the Gaza Strip;

(c) 69.4 per cent of the total land area of the Syrian Golan.

14. According to Israeli statistics, there were 82,000 settlers as of 31 December 1990, divided between the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. This figure does not reflect the real situation at present, since in 1991 settlements grew at a rate of 60 per cent, according to Palestinian sources and the Israeli Peace Now movement (Jerusalem Post, 23 January 1992). The Israeli Ministry of Finance stated in January 1992 that there were 130,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem, where there are more than 120,000) and 4,000 to 5,000 in the Gaza Strip; in the Golan, there are allegedly more than 13,000. The number of settlers in the occupied territories is thus around 268,000. The total number of settlements is estimated at 194: 33 in the Golan, 17 in the Gaza Strip, 8 in East Jerusalem and 136 in the West Bank. 6/

15. Whether in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, the development of Jewish settlements has only worsened the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian population and is a source of tension. Clashes occur with increasing frequency between the two communities, and the Israeli settlers have organized themselves into an armed militia. 6/

16. A study prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territories (TD/B/1142) indicated that the policy, practices and measures of the Israeli Government vis-à-vis their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip had brought about radical changes in the structure of the economy, adversely affecting economic growth and development in the occupied territories and reducing the contribution to GDP. The study demonstrated clearly that the total cultivated area had decreased from 36 per cent of the total land area of the occupied West Bank in 1966 to 27 per cent in 1984, and in the occupied Gaza Strip, from 55 per cent of the total area in 1966 to 28 per cent in 1985.

17. Confiscation of land adversely affected agricultural production and income in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; income from agriculture declined from 1,505 million shekels in 1978 to 1,488 million shekels in 1984 at constant 1980 prices. As a result, the share of agriculture in GDP declined (at constant prices) from 32 per cent in 1978 to 28 per cent in 1984, according to another UNCTAD study (UNCTAD/ST/SEU/4).

18. According to the same study, income from agriculture in the West Bank declined from $237 million in 1981 to $204 million in 1985. In the Gaza Strip, it declined from $66 million in 1981 to $61 million in 1985, in spite of the fact that farmers were making increasing use of modern techniques in order to improve agricultural production in those areas.

19. As a result of the negative impact of the confiscation of agricultural land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, employment in agriculture fell from 38.7 per cent of the total workforce in 1970 to 24.4 per cent in 1985.

20. According to a report of the ILO, on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories, submitted to the International Labour Conference at its seventy-seventh session in 1990, "Endogenous development efforts are frequently frustrated or undone for administrative or security reasons." 7/ While evaluating the impact of Israeli policies and practices on the agricultural sector, the report highlighted the following points:

(a) Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy but performance over the decade has been disappointing for lack of land, water and markets; 8/

(b) Despite increased productivity as a result of the introduction of new technologies in agriculture, corresponding new marketing opportunities were lacking;

(c) "Agricultural employment in the occupied territories dropped from almost 60,000 workers in 1970 to 38,500 workers in 1987." The share of agricultural employment also dropped from 40 per cent to around 25 per cent: "In other words, thousands of workers left because they or their employers had lost their land or could not expand for lack of water; or because they could

not compete in the home market with subsidized imports from Israel; or because they found barriers to buying farm inputs or to selling their products abroad." 9/

21. The general settlement policy of confiscating land and imposing restrictions on water resouces has meant that a large proportion of the population that would normally have earned a living by traditional agriculture have gradually begun to seek employment in Israel as unskilled workers because of the lack of jobs in the territories. This appears to be partially responsible for the economic dependence of the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories on Israel, particularly as regards agricultural produce.

22. Mention should also be made of the uprooting of fruit trees by Israeli authorities from Arab farm land in the occupied territories. The Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz (29 March 1989) noted that the Israeli authorities had uprooted 23,400 trees in the occupied territories during the first year of the intifadah.

23. A survey concerning fruit trees uprooted from Arab farmers' land in the occupied territories was published in the 1989 annual report of the Jordan Ministry of Labour, as shown in the following table.

24. No less than 30,000 fruit trees were uprooted in 1989 from Arab farm land through actions by the occupation authorities connected with the confiscation of Arab land; 16,928 of these were olive trees. The number of towns and villages affected by these actions in the same year was 138.

25. As regards water resources, the Israeli authorities have issued a series of orders (orders 92 and 158 of 1967 and order 498 of 1974) to guarantee their complete monopoly over these resources, to allow them to control water transfer, extraction, consumption, sales and distribution, use, water sharing and rationing, well drilling, the construction of water installations and the like.

26. The Arab inhabitants of the Syrian Golan have been forced to demolish some of their own reservoirs, and the Israeli army has dynamited a number of others. 10/ At present, only three or four reservoirs are authorized for use out of approximately 400 that had been built in the Golan. The Israeli authorities have imposed tight restrictions on water use in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan. Permits are sometimes granted to drill wells to depths not exceeding 60 metres for domestic purposes only, while Israelis in the settlements are allowed to drill to depths of up to 500 metres.

27. Several hundred water pumps owned by Arab farmers in the Jordan Valley area of the West Bank have been destroyed for security reasons. Irrigation canals which supplied water to Arab farms in the area of Al-Jiftlik have also been destroyed. This has had an adverse effect on agriculture and on the economic and social life of these areas.

Destruction of trees and crops, 1989

Month	Olive trees uprooted	Citrus trees uprooted	Other fruit trees uprooted	Number of Arab towns and villages affected
January	2 285	210	90	14
February	925	105	200	10
March	1 417	..	330	9
April	3 337	100	7 000	16
May	4 110	2 400 dunums of crops ploughed under	12 dunums of grapes	22
June	847	50 dunums of crops ploughed under	550 dunums sprayed with chemical substances	10
July	120	300	3	8
August	2 033	112	4 dunums ploughed under	12
September	621	380	430	12
October	177	60	2 620	14
November	251	30	..	5
December	805	..	..	6

Source: Compiled from Government of Jordan, Ministry of Labour, Research Department, "The impact of Israeli policies and practices on the conditions of Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories" (in Arabic), Annual Report, 1989 (Amman, January 1990).

28. Ram Lake, the largest body of water in the Syrian Golan, has been seized by the Israeli authorities. As a result, villages in the Golan have suffered a critical shortfall in drinking and irrigation water, while the water of Ram Lake has been diverted to Israeli settlements to satify the needs of the settlers and their agricultural and industrial projects in the area.

29. The consequences of Israeli water policies and practices may be described as follows:

(a) A state of conflict and competition over land and water resources has arisen and continues to prevail; this has had an adverse impact on the living conditions of Palestinians. The Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley, for example, are in direct competition with the Arab villages for the limited resources of the West Bank; 11/

(b) The usable groundwater reserves in the West Bank are estimated at approximately 600 million m^3 per year. The Israeli occupation authorities are currently pumping approximately 500 million m^3 per year, leaving only 100 million m^3 per year for use by the West Bank, or 16.6 per cent of the total water available in the West Bank;

(c) The deep wells drilled by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories have affected the level and quantity of water in Arab wells, resulting in their reduced productive capacity and in the drying up of some of those wells and in the subsequent drying up of agricultural land that depended on those wells for irrigation water;

(d) The overexploitation of groundwater in the Gaza Strip and the great increase in water use by settlers in Israeli settlements have resulted in increased salinity through sea-water intrusion. Approximately 50 per cent of the wells in the Gaza Strip have become unfit for human use, and most of them are unfit even for irrigation, owing to the high salinity levels;

(e) As in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the continued arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, which aim at confiscating land and gaining control of water resources in the occupied Syrian Golan, have reduced the area under cultivation, curtailed local development potential and lowered local incomes derived from work in agriculture.

Notes

1/ International Labour Office, Report of the Director-General, Appendices, vol. II (Geneva, 1992), paras. 116 and 117.

2/ Amiram Goldbloom, "Are settlements an obstacle to peace?" New Outlook, June/July/August 1991.

Notes (continued)

3/ Ha'aretz, reprinted in the Palestinian newspaper Al-Quds, 23 January 1991.

4/ International Labour Office, Report of the Director-General, Appendices ..., paras. 116, 117 and 121.

5/ "Israeli land and water policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories" (A/46/263-E/1991/88), para. 38.

6/ International Labour Office, Report of the Director-General, Appendices ..., paras. 124 and 126.

7/ Ibid., appendix II, "Report on the situation of workers in occupied Arab territories" (Geneva, 1990).

8/ Ibid., para. 21.

9/ Ibid., para. 41.

10/ Ibid., para. 111.

11/ David Kahan, "Agriculture and water in the West Bank and Gaza", report of the West Bank database project (Jerusalem, 1983), pp. 163-166.

UNITED
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2 July 1992

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Forty-seventh session
Item 69 of the preliminary list*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 29 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from the Secretary of External Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia dated 22 May 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jesse B. MAREHALAU
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

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* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 22 May 1992 from the Secretary of External Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and in my capacity as Secretary (Minister) of External Affairs, I have the honour to inform you that the Federated States of Micronesia wishes herewith to inform you of the following declaration setting out the position of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia with regard to international agreements entered into by the United States of America and made applicable to the Federated States of Micronesia by the United States of America pursuant to the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for the former Japanese Mandated Islands.

I would accordingly be grateful if you would arrange for this declaration to be issued as a United Nations document for circulation among the Member States and affiliated organizations. For this purpose, a declaration concerning treaties previously applied is set out hereunder.

Declaration

On 3 November 1986, the application of treaties and international agreements to the Federated States of Micronesia by virtue of the application of treaties by the United States of America to the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, ceased. With regard to all bilateral treaties validly concluded by the United States on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia, or validly applied or extended by the former to the latter before 3 November 1986, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia declares that it will examine each such treaty and communicate its views to the other State party concerned. In the meantime, the Federated States of Micronesia will continue to observe the terms of each treaty that validly so applies and is not inconsistent with the letter or the spirit of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, provisionally and on a basis of reciprocity. The period of examination will extend until 3 November 1995, except in the case of any treaty in respect of which an earlier statement of views is or has been made. At the expiration of that period, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia will consider such of these treaties which could not by the application of the rules of customary international law be regarded as otherwise surviving, as having terminated.

It is the earnest hope of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia that during the aforementioned period of examination the normal processes of diplomatic negotiations will enable it to reach satisfactory accord with the States parties concerned upon the possibility of the continuance or modification of such treaties.

With regard to multilateral treaties previously applied, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia intends to review each of them individually and to communicate to the depository in each case what steps it wishes to take, whether by way of confirmation of termination, confirmation of succession or accession. During such period of review, any party to a multilateral treaty that has, prior to 3 November 1986, been validly applied or extended to the Federated States of Micronesia and is not inconsistent with the letter or spirit of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia may, on a basis of reciprocity, rely as against the Federated States of Micronesia on the terms of such treaty.

(Signed) Resio S. MOSES
Secretary

UNITED
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A/47/296
30 June 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Items 97 and 98 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 29 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued by the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden concerning the situation in Myanmar.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 97 and 98 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

Statement on the situation in Myanmar issued by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

The Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, have noted with deep concern and regret the severe problems related to the situation in Myanmar, including the safe and orderly return of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) is unwilling to enter into a serious dialogue with the genuine democratic opposition in Myanmar. Further, the SLORC refuses to respect the outcome of the free and fair elections held on 27 May 1990. Democratically elected political leaders are being held captive, among them Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who continues to be held under house arrest, deprived of regular contact with her family.

The Nordic countries note the recent measures adopted by the SLORC and urge the SLORC to indicate its preparedness to make progress on the road to democracy with full respect for human rights and the will of the people in accordance with its previous assurances as well as the content and spirit of General Assembly resolution 46/132, which was adopted without a vote on 17 December 1991.

The situation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh remains precarious as the refugees refuse to return to their homes as long as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is not allowed to assist them there.

The Nordic countries urge the Government of Myanmar without delay to invite UNHCR to help to alleviate the plight of the refugees and to enable them to return to their country.

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30 June 1992
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our previous letters concerning Israeli incursions and Israeli practices in southern Lebanon, I should like to inform you hereunder of the latest developments that have taken place over the past two days:

Two Israeli Cobra helicopters bombarded with rockets the home of Muhammad Khalil Yahya in the town of Haris in the Bint Jubayl district inside the Nepalese battalion sector, causing serious damage to the house and those nearby.

On the night of Sunday and Monday 28/29 June 1992, Israeli artillery bombarded parts of Iqlim al-Tuffah and woodlands in the western Bekaa. This was accompanied by helicopter overflights of the frontier zone and by warplanes carrying out mock attacks. The bombardment ignited fires in the woodlands and vineyards and caused serious damage to crops.

On Sunday, 28 June 1992, the town of Tulin and the hills surrounding Marj Uyun, Burj al-Maluk and Mansuri came under artillery and rocket bombardment originating from the occupied border strip.

On the same date, Israeli forces opened fire with artillery on a Lebanese Army checkpoint in the town of Na'ayriyah in the Nabatiyah district.

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* A/47/50.

Israeli artillery shells also fell in the neighbourhood of Bra'shit and Wadi al-Saluqi, causing damage to property and a fire in the fields.

The Israeli occupation forces expelled the Lebanese citizen Elias Zeinoun from the occupied zone after detaining him in his home for 10 days.

The Lebanese Government, as it informs the Secretary-General and the international community, and in particular the States Members of the Security Council, of the daily Israeli incursions and Israeli practices against Lebanese citizens in their own country, calls for earnest and practical action to bring them to an end, particularly in light of the fact that they are incompatible with international law and the first principles of human rights.

The tragic situation that prevails in southern Lebanon continues because of Israel's persistent refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978), observance of which would end the anomalous situation in the area.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Chawki CHOUERI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

UNITED
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General Assembly

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A/47/298
30 June 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Forty-seventh session
Item 33 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 25 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Economic Community and its member States on the violence in South Africa, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 23 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 33 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on the violence in South Africa issued at Brussels and Lisbon on 23 June 1992 by the European Economic Community

The European Economic Community and its member States express their shock at the recent appalling incidents of violence in South Africa, particularly in Boitapong, which have taken a toll of innocent human life.

The European Economic Community and its member States, which had welcomed the signing of the national peace accord in September 1991, and all further efforts to bring an end to violence, expect all parties concerned to fully respect their commitments.

The European Economic Community and its member States urge the Government of South Africa to investigate these incidents rapidly and thoroughly, so that those responsible are punished and note its commitment to do so. They also call upon the leaders of all parties concerned in South Africa to persevere with determination on the peaceful path to a non-racial democracy, representative of all South Africans, initiated in the framework of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa).

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NATIONS

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A/47/299
30 June 1992

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Forty-seventh session
Item 103 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 26 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement on East Timor made by the spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Portugal at Lisbon on 23 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 103 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

Statement on East Timor made by the spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Portugal at Lisbon on 23 June 1992

Recent sentences against East Timorese civilians strike again an ominous contrast with the leniency shown towards the Indonesian military brought to trial for their involvement in the 12 November massacre.

Two more East Timorese civilians, whose trials in Dili have now finished, have been given heavy prison sentences for non-violent activities in connection with the massacre committed on 12 November 1991 by the Indonesian military in the capital of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor, illegally occupied by Indonesia.

Juvêncio de Jesus Martins and Felismino da Silva Pereira were condemned to six years and five years and eight months in prison, respectively, for their alleged participation in organizing the demonstration that was, on that occasion, barbarously repressed by Indonesian troops, causing heavy human losses, as was widely reported. In the meantime, and according to what has been publicly disclosed, several low-ranking Indonesian military (two second-lieutenants, one sergeant and three privates - these three, curiously enough, were all of East Timorese origin) were court-martialled and given sentences of between eight and eighteen months imprisonment.

The charges brought against them (disobeying orders and inflicting wounds with a bayonet) are clear indicators that a serious investigation into those actually responsible for an atrocity that prompted world-wide indignation is still far from sight. Who ordered the shooting at the Santa Cruz cemetery? Who are those accountable for so many killed and wounded? These questions remain unanswered in spite of all the promises subsequently made by the Indonesian authorities.

Indonesia committed itself to identifying and punishing all those deemed responsible for that tragedy. So far, its understanding of that commitment has led it to inflict heavy penalties such as those referred to above upon East Timorese, indicted not for any violent activities, but for organizing peaceful demonstrations. There is a shocking and unacceptable discrepancy between these penalties and those imposed on the military (small fry as they may be) who took part in that terrible brutality.

Indonesia continues to blatantly disregard the commitments it gave in subscribing to the consensus agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, as announced by the declaration of its Chairman, on 4 March 1992.

Not only has the punishment of the authors of that carnage been translated into ludicrous measures: those civilians, whose release without delay was requested by the Commission on Human Rights, have been sentenced.

This shows that the Indonesian Government acted with complete cynicism in the Commission on Human Rights dealings with this issue. It also shows Indonesia's contempt for human rights.

Portugal expresses its firmest condemnation of these actions and hopes that the international community will draw from them the appropriate conclusions. Portugal affirms also its full solidarity with all those East Timorese who have been sentenced to unjust and illegitimate penalties aimed at repressing their struggle to ensure that the people of East Timor have the freedom to choose their political future.

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Forty-seventh session
Item 69 of the preliminary list*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Economic Community and its member States on Cambodia, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Cambodia, issued by the European Economic Community and its member States on 25 June 1992

The European Economic Community and its member States welcome the successful outcome of the Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, which took place at Tokyo on 22 June 1992, and fully support the Tokyo declarations on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia and on the Cambodian peace process. They stress the importance of strictly adhering to the peace agreements reached in Paris on 23 October 1991, aimed at the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

The European Economic Community and its member States appreciate the prominent role played by Prince Sihanouk as President of the Supreme National Council, the actions undertaken by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), and the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General's Representative, Mr. Akashi.

The European Economic Community and its member States call upon all Cambodian parties to implement fully the Paris Agreements. They express concern at the refusal of one party to allow the necessary deployment of UNTAC and call upon that party to cooperate with UNTAC in the full and timely implementation of the second phase of the cease-fire.

The European Economic Community and its member States consider that the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Cambodia can only be achieved with full respect for human rights and the holding of free and fair elections in 1993, which will contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Forty-seventh session
Items 14 and 62 (b) of the
preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Economic Community and its member States on North Korea, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 29 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 14 and 62 (b) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations

* A/47/50

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ANNEX

Statement on North Korea, issued by the European Economic Community on 29 June 1992

The European Economic Community and its member States recall their statement of 31 January 1992, and welcome the positive steps undertaken so far by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea towards full implementation of the safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), namely, the ratification of the agreement and the nuclear inspections now being carried out.

The European Economic Community and its member States hope that the IAEA inspections will proceed satisfactorily and will create international confidence, as well as contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, the European Economic Community and its member States underline the importance they attach to early and full implementation of bilateral nuclear inspections agreed to in the framework of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula on 31 December 1991.

The European Economic Community and its member States also urge the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abide by the missile technology control regime guideline for sensitive missile-relevant transfers and to cease missile sales.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Economic Community and its member States on the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on preventive diplomacy, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 30 June 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 10 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement on the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on preventive diplomacy, issued by the European Economic Community on 30 June 1992

The European Economic Community and its member States welcome the release of the report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, a/ pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992, which represents a highly valuable basis for a thorough reflection among the Member States of the United Nations.

The European Economic Community and its member States attach great political significance to the field of preventive diplomacy, and believe that it is possible to explore the potential of the Charter of the United Nations to foster a deeper and more effective use of its capacities to defuse potential conflicts at an early stage. In this respect, the European Economic Community and its member States welcome the call for increased activity by the United Nations in preventive conflicts, seeking negotiated and lasting solutions and maintaining peace, as well as an enhanced cooperation with regional organizations.

The European Economic Community and its member States reiterate their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, and look forward to debating the Secretary-General's report in the appropriate forums.

Notes

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